

Today's News - Wednesday, February 3, 2010

- Officials and scientists debate whether Haiti's capital should relocate to a safer spot: "We cannot invest a cent in Port-au-Prince; it would be a waste of money...We can't afford to lose everything once again."
- Environmentalists fear an ecological disaster if a planned luxury resort in the middle of a nature reserve near Russia's Sochi (think 2014 Winter Olympics) moves forward.
- An eyeful of NYC/UK team's design for pop star Madonna's Academy for Girls in Malawi.
- The much-beleaguered Javits Federal Building plaza in NYC to get a post-Serra-post-Martha Schwartz makeover by Van Valkenburgh (hopefully, third try will be the charm).
- 20 years later, Hall and Coates review their 1990 predictions for London 2010.
- Hadid et al. offer their predictions for London 2030.
- Rawsthorn takes the current state of industrial design to task: Many "innovations" in design today are spurious and over-complicated. There's no excuse for this."
- Q&A (and video) with Ron Arad re: the future of industrial design - and why copies of his products bother him, but not as much as if no one copied: "That means I'm not good enough."
- NYC-based Shashi Caan crosses the Big Pond.
- Good - and bad - news in three-part report on the new green economy.
- CNU joins call to replace or seriously reform bailed-out government-backed mortgage agencies so they start lending to mixed-use building projects to help in revitalizing neighborhoods.
- RFP: NEA in search of a new "Art Works" logo.
- Registration deadline reminders: Atlantic City Boardwalk Holocaust Memorial; and 2010 ASLA Professional Awards.
- Winners all: an eyeful of Russia's Building Awards (the Red House is cool); Chipperfield and Eisenman share Israel's \$100,000 2010 Wolf Prize in Architecture; National Building Museum's 24th Honor Award to Perkins+Will, New Orleans Habitat Musicians' Village, and the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon; West 8 snags first place in the International Urban Landscape Awards; AIA New Orleans 2010 Design Awards winners illustrate Recovery & Progress.
- Tour Chicago with Ed Keegan on you iPhone ('would that we had one!).

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Haiti Debates Moving Its Capital: "We cannot invest a cent in Port-au-Prince; it would be a waste of money...We can't afford to lose everything once again." - Der Spiegel (Germany)

Environmentalists Seethe Over Russian Luxury Dachas: Is environmental protection being abandoned for the sake of a colony of luxury dachas near Russia's Sochi resort, where the 2014 Winter Olympics are slated to take place? A resort has been planned for the middle of a nature reserve...fear an ecological disaster... - Der Spiegel (Germany)

Madonna's Malawi school on-site: The pop star is bankrolling the Academy for Girls...will become a campus for 450 pupils when it is completed in two years' time. -- Markus Dochantschi/studioMDA; Adams Kara Taylor; Arup [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Plaza Redo, Again: GSA taps Michael Van Valkenburgh for Javits Federal Building plaza revamp, tossing Martha Schwartz...where Richard Serra's controversial Tilted Arc sculpture once stood... -- Wank Adams Slavin Associates (WASA) [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Britain in 2010 – as predicted in 1990: Twenty years ago we published a magazine that looked ahead to London in 2010. What did we get right – and wrong? ...always changing while contriving to stay always the same – decaying, self-rejuvenating, stubbornly indestructible. -- Peter Hall; Nigel Coates - Guardian (UK)

London 2030: our expert predictions: What will Britain's capital city look like in 20 years' time. What technological, social or environmental changes will most shape our future? -- Zaha Hadid; Ken Livingstone; Iain Sinclair; Tony Travers/Greater London Group; Rosie Boycott/London Food- Guardian (UK)

When More Is Decidedly Less: ...designers have striven to make things that offer more than their predecessors. More speed. More power. More functions....If the "more" is well chosen and executed, it can lead to progress; but if not, it could have the opposite effect...Many "innovations" in design today are spurious and over-complicated. There's no excuse for this. By Alice Rawsthorn- New York Times

The Future of Industrial Design: "The only reason to do something is if you believe it can be done better than before." -- Ron Arad- Wall Street Journal

Shashi Caan Collective Forms The Collective UK: ...has crossed the big pond...launch of its new U.K.-based office...Domestic operations will also run under a new title, The Collective US. - Contract magazine

The New Green Economy (Part 1, 2, 3): What Does a Sustainable Economy Look Like? Are current forms of economic growth sustainable? "No, we've already passed the threshold"..."We've had a revolution in design capabilities. There can be growth in more honest ways now." What is the role of education and R&D? -- National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE)- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

CNU Joins Call for Action on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac: ...mortgage giants have policies that cause them to avoid supporting lending in mixed-use buildings in revitalizing neighborhoods...calls to replace - or at least seriously reform - the bailed-out government-backed mortgage agencies - Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)

Request for Proposals/RFP: New "Art Works" Logo for the NEA; deadline: February, 26, 2010- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Registration deadline reminder - February 15: Atlantic City Boardwalk Holocaust Memorial; submissions due March 15, 2010- Atlantic City Boardwalk Holocaust Memorial organization (ACBHM)

Registration deadline reminder - February 12: 2010 ASLA Professional Awards; submissions due February 26- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Awards Recognize Best Russian Buildings: ...fourth annual Building Award..."We are raising the bar for excellence in all Russian architecture." -- Sergy Kiselev & Partners; Totan Kuzembaev; Project Meganom; Sergey Gnedovsky; Sergei Skuratov Architects [slide show]- Architectural Record

2010 Wolf Prize in Architecture to David Chipperfield & Peter Eisenman: ...the sum of \$100,000, will be conferred...at a special ceremony, at the Knesset (parliament), on 13 May 2010- Zichron Yaakov Magazine (Israel)

National Building Museum to honor Perkins+Will, along with Harry Connick, Jr. and Branford Marsalis: ...24th Honor Award ceremony May 11 to recognize three organizations that have advanced the quality of our built environment through their unique civic and social innovations... -- New Orleans Habitat Musicians' Village; The U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon- Chicago Tribune

IULA 2009 for West 8: First prize for "Neues Wohnen" in Hamburg-Jenfeld has been awarded the International Urban Landscape Award. The ecological neighbourhood project...is the winner of the 25,000 euro prize...Lea River Park Project/Design for London won €15,000 prize for second place; LiFE project (Long-term initiatives for Flood-risk environments)/Baca Architects won €10,000 for coming third.- Topos – The International Review of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design / Eurohypo Aktiengesellschaft

AIA New Orleans Announces 2010 Design Awards Winners: ...theme Recovery & Progress demonstrates the Chapter's aim to continue raising awareness of the importance of great design in the rebuilding of the city. -- Tulane University URBANbuild/Byron Mouton; Waggoner & Ball Architects; Wisznia I Architecture + Development; AEDS, Ammar Eloueini; bildDESIGN; TZCO/Tulane City Center; studioWTA I Wayne Troyer Architects [images]- AIA New Orleans

Technology is bringing the distinctive voices of Chicago architect and critic Ed Keegan...to iPhone users...architecture app allows users to create a city tour by foot, car or taxi accompanied by Keegan's voice as guide.- Crain's Chicago Business

INSIGHT: Can Green Interiors Help Power the Recovery? How the demand for sustainability and long-term value are shifting attitudes in the world of commercial interiors, creating an environment ripe for design professionals with incentives for both landlords and tenants to move the sustainability agenda forward. By Sascha Wagner, IIDA, CID, LEED AP, and Robin Bass, LEED AP - ArchNewsNow

-- Allied Works Architecture: National Music Centre of Canada, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
-- Competition winner: OMA: Chu Hai College Campus, Hong Kong, China

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